Wagons requirement of Railways

*300. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of wagons of goods trains at present;

(b) whether the Railways require about 25,000 wagons every year and it has set up a target of 17,000 wagons for the financial year 2002-2003;

(c) whether there is an ever growing number of condemned wagons year after year and 42,000 wagons need immediate replacement;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(e) whether Govemment propose to increase the number of wagons to increase load carrying capacity of goods trains so as to help farmers in transporting farm produce; and

(0 the steps being taken to meet the increasing demand of wagons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) During 2000-01, average number of wagons in a goods train (broad gauge) was 108 wagons in terms of four wheeler unit (FWUs).

(b) No Sir, the requirement of wagons is not 25,000 FWUs every year but is dependent on the projection for freight traffic, condemnation of wagons and the wagon productivity norm of the year in question. Taking these factors into account, procurement target for year 2002-03 has been arrived at 17,000 broad gauge wagons (FWUs).

(c) No Sir, Wagons are withdrawn from service as soon as they as declared as condemned. While no wagaons need immediate replacement, there were however 21997 overaged wagons on the system (on 31.3.2001), which are being replaced in a phased manner. Over the years, the number of overaged wagons as percentage of total population is also steadily coming down from 7.4% in 1997-98 to 4.8% in 2000-01.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

(e) With existing wagons fleet. Railways are able to meet the demand of wagons for core and non core sectors including farm produce.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to (e) above.